

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 16, 21, and 46 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended, and claims 8–15, 17–20, 22–36, and 41–43 are canceled. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the claims and specification as originally filed. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 46 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability, but respectfully submit that at least claim 1, from which claim 46 depends, is allowable for at least the reasons indicated below.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

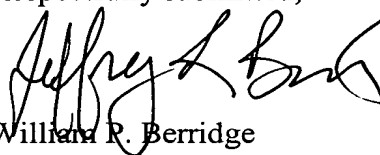
The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7, 16, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Perron et al. (1997) ("Perron"), and rejects claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Seifarth et al. (1998) ("Seifarth"). By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 7 are amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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